

TIMELINES FOR THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Book 12

When **you shall see**
the abomination of desolation
spoken of by Daniel the prophet...

flee from the cities

(Mat 24:15)

The prophecy of

1260 | 1290 | 1335 days

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Introduction

God has always given men warning of coming judgments. Those who had faith in His message for their time, and who acted out their faith in obedience to His commandments, escaped the judgments that fell upon the disobedient and unbelieving. The word came to Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me. Noah obeyed and was saved. The message came to Lot, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city (Genesis 7:1; 19:14). Lot placed himself under the guardianship of the heavenly messengers and was saved. So Christ's disciples were given warning of the destruction of Jerusalem. Those who watched for the sign of the coming ruin, and fled from the city, escaped the destruction. So now we are given warning of Christ's second coming and of the destruction to fall upon the world. Those who heed the warning will be saved.—DA 634 (1898).

In the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed.—GC 594 (1911). There is need of a much closer study of the Word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before. . . . The light that Daniel received from God was given especially for these last days.—TM 112, 113 (1896). Let us read and study the twelfth chapter of Daniel. It is a warning that we shall all need to understand before the time of the end.—15MR 228 (1903). The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God's people.—8T 302 (1904).

There are many who do not understand the prophecies relating to these days and they must be enlightened. It is the duty of both watchmen and laymen to give the trumpet a certain sound.—Ev 194, 195 (1875). Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history.—5T 716 (1889). There is a day that God hath appointed for the close of this world's history: This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. More, much more, should be said about these tremendously important subjects. The day is at hand when the destiny of souls will be fixed forever. . . .

Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one's interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand.—FE 335, 336 (1895).

Christ forewarned His disciples of the destruction of Jerusalem and the signs to take place prior to the coming of the Son of man. The whole of the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew is a prophecy concerning the events to precede this event, and the destruction of Jerusalem is used to typify the last great destruction of the world by fire.—Ms 77, 1899. We are not now able to describe with accuracy the scenes to be enacted in our world in the future, but this we do know, that this is a time when we must watch unto prayer, for the great day of the Lord is at hand.—2SM 35 (1901).

May the Lord give no rest, day nor night, to those who are now careless and indolent in the cause and work of God. The end is near. This is that which Jesus would have us keep ever before us—the shortness of time.—Letter 97, 1886.

Why did Jesus refer readers of Matthew to the book of Daniel concerning the abomination of desolation?

(Matthew 24:15-16)

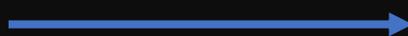
¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

(Daniel 12:11-12)

¹¹ And from the time that the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a 1290 days. ¹² Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the 1335 days.

Abomination of
desolation
(Sunday law)



Second coming
of the Lord
Jesus Christ

What is the abomination of desolation?

A CODED WORD

The abomination of desolation is a code word that must be decoded to be understood. Its meaning must be decoded depending on the prophetic time of its use and the event surrounding its application.

WHAT WAS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION AT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM CITY?

40 years before the destruction of Jerusalem, the Christians had been warned by Jesus that when they shall see Jerusalem city surrounded by Roman armies, then they were to know that that was the abomination of desolation. At that time, they were to flee without delay.

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem surrounded with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20).

"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." (Luke 19:41-43).

History records tell us it was surrounded by Roman armies led by general Vespasian in 67 A.D. But before he could attack it, the news of Emperor Nero's death prompted his departure for Rome to claim the throne. In 70 A.D, his son, Titus, led the siege of Jerusalem, which fell in the summer of 70 A.D after a brutal four-month campaign, resulting in the destruction of both the Temple and the razing of the city the ground. Millions of Jews were killed.

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION FOR OUR TIME

Jerusalem has two meaning. Jerusalem then was a physical city where the physical kingdom (temple) and the people of God resided. They were physically surrounded by the Roman armies. The people of God are also called Jerusalem. *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"* (Luke 13:34)

Today, the people of God are called spiritual Jerusalem/spiritual Jews and the kingdom of God (temple) resides inside them. *"Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you?"* (1 Co 3:16). Today, the Israel of God (spiritual Jews) are worldwide, so is the Roman catholic worldwide. They are surrounded by the false doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. When you shall see the false Sunday sabbath of the Roman Catholic Church be enforced by law, thus standing in the holy place of the sabbath of the Lord (Saturday sabbath), then for sure, the people of God worldwide will have been surrounded by the roman armies. Then *we shall know the desolation of the world is nigh"* (Luke 21:20). *False Sunday sabbath* (earth's Sabbath) is aggressively being pushed by the Roman army (Pope and his army of Jesuits). When it shall be passed by legislation, it shall be time to flee from the cities into the mountains. For at that time there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since the world began. And at that time Michael (Jesus) shall stand up (Dan 12:1).

Matthew 24:14-31

KJV

From verse 14, Jesus describes the event that will signify when the end has come. The gospel that shall be preached before the end is the everlasting gospel of the 3 angels' message of Revelation 14:6-12.

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; **and then shall the end come.**¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: ¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. ²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.²⁵ Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶ Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. ²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Jesus linked the abomination of desolation in Matthew 24:15 with the time of the end. Read the verses following upto verse 31. Again, when Jesus linked the abomination of desolation that was spoken of by prophet Daniel, (Dan 12:11), we know for sure He was linking it to the time of the end, for Daniel describes NOT about Jerusalem destruction in 70 A.D but his context is purely describing the events associated with the end of the world.

Daniel chapter 12

KJV

From Daniel 11:40, going to Daniel chapter 12, prophet Daniel is revealed what will happen at the time of the end.

Daniel 11:40 **And at the time of the end** shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. ⁴¹ He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. ⁴² He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. ⁴⁴ But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. ⁴⁵ And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

Daniel 12 ¹ **And at that time** shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. ⁴ But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. ⁵ Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.

⁶ And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, **How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?** ⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. ⁸ And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, **what shall be the end of these things?** ⁹ And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. ¹⁰ Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. ¹¹ And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a 1290 days. ¹² Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the **1335 days.** ¹³ But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

A commentary on Matthew 24 and Daniel 12

Matthew chapter 24

In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus offers a detailed response to the 3 questions that were asked by his disciples. He infused the answers of the 3 questions into one narrative. He offered a **chronological order of prophetic events** of the destruction of Jerusalem that was to happen 40 years later, and of the destruction of the world at His second coming 2000 years later.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us,

1. **When shall these things be?**
2. **What shall be the sign of thy coming**
3. **and of the end of the world?**

From **verse 14 to verse 31**, Jesus gives a detailed account of the events associated with the end of the world and His second coming.

Daniel chapter 12

In Daniel chapter 12, the Angel details the events associated with the end of the world and second coming of Jesus. Notice chapter 12:1 starts with the words **“And at that time”**. The word “and” shows it is a continuation of the previous paragraph. And **“at that time”**, shows there was a time being described in previous verses. So, we have to therefore go back to chapter 11 to get where the reference of that time starts. In Daniel 11:40, this is where the time mentioned starts: **⁴⁰ And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him:...**

Ideally, Daniel chapter 12 should have started with the above verse. For this is where the angel starts describing to Daniel the events that will happen at the time of the end, which concludes with the resurrection of Daniel and his people at the very last verse of the book of Daniel (Dan 12:13).

In the chronological order of events in both books, events in Matthew 24:15 and Daniel 12:11-12, describe the same thing; the setting up of the abomination of desolation. There are specific timelines given in Daniel, that are not given in Matthew that are worthy noting.

What did Jesus say concerning abomination of desolation

Matthew 24:14-30

1. When shall the end of the world come?

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth. (Rev 14:6)

NB: This specific gospel is the 3 ANGELS' MESSAGE that was to be preached from the start of the hour of judgement (Rev 14:7)

2. What sign shall we see to know the end is come?

¹⁵ When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, stand in the holy place,

3. Which specific abomination of desolation are we to see?

[The one]... ¹⁵ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, Not any other!

4. When we see this sign, what are we to do immediately?

⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: (and let them which are in the midst of it (Jerusalem city) depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. Luke 21:21)

Flee from where to where?

5. Why flee?

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (²² For these be the days of vengeance, Luke 21:22)

6. How long will the great tribulation last?

²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

In Matthew, the duration is not given. But we know these are countable days because "they shall be shortened." Prophet Daniel is given the exact number of days.

7. Upon end of tribulation, what will happen next?

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

8. What will happen after these signs?

³⁰ then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: ³¹ And he shall send his angels..., and they shall gather together his elect ...from one end of heaven to the other.

What was prophet Daniel told concerning the abomination of desolation?

Daniel 12

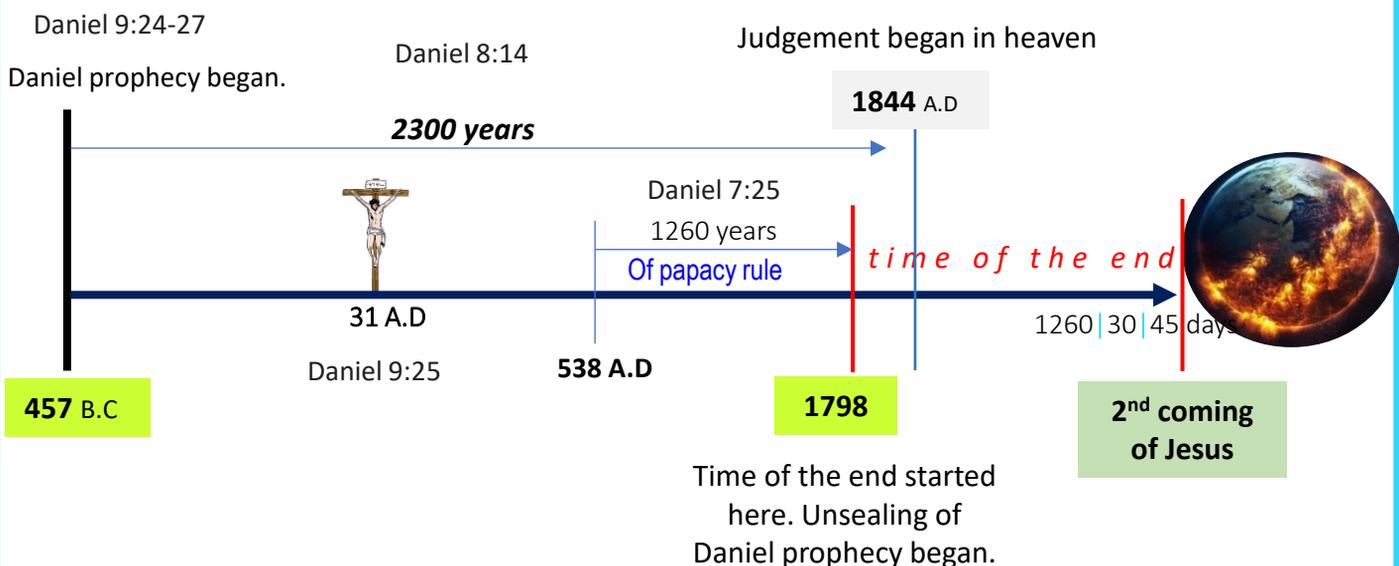
Part 1

Daniel was given details that the abomination of desolation would happen **at the time of the end**, and the duration it should last. As he did not understand, he was told twice to shut up the words and seal the book till the time of the end shall have come, when only those wise should understand.

⁴ But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, **even to the time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4)

⁹ And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed **till the time of the end**.¹⁰ Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. (Daniel 12: 9-10)

When did the time of the end began?



The opening and unsealing of the book of Daniel began in the year 1798. Since then, we have been living in the time of the end, when the prophecies of Daniel chapter 11 and 12 should be clearly understood by the wise. At the time appointed, within this period called 'the time of the end', the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet shall be set up. This will be the enforcing by governments of false sabbath (Sunday) by human laws. **The 1260, 1290, and 1335 Days describe the timelines of events that will happen at the tail end of the time of the end.**

What was prophet Daniel told about the events related to the abomination of desolation?

1. What sign will tell us the time of the end has began?

Dan 11:40 And **at the time of the end** shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and **he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.** (Dan 11:40)

The king of the north is the papacy. This is when papacy shall start to persecute the holy people of God after passing political-religious laws to enforce his Sunday sabbath.

2. What will follow then?

Dan 12:1a **And at that time** shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:

Then, when the Sunday laws will be passed and enforced, Jesus will stand to defend His righteous people

3. After Michael stands up then what?

12:1a there shall be **a time of trouble, such as never** was since there was a nation even to that same time:

A time of severe persecution and turmoil in the world will arise. Persecution of those who will refuse to worship on Sunday will be severe

4. What will Michael do at the great time of trouble?

12:1b **And at that time thy people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be found written in the book.

All those who did not worship the beast and his image, those without mark of the beast will be delivered

5. Will some wicked people also be resurrected at this time?

² **And many** of them that sleep in the dust of the earth **shall awake**, some to everlasting life, and **some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

A special resurrection will happen just before Jesus comes, even for some evil ones, like those who pierced him to witness His 2nd coming

6. How long will this time of great trouble take?

⁶ **How long** shall it be **to the end of these wonders?** ⁷It shall be for **a time, times, and a half**; and he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things **shall be finished.**

The time of trouble and persecution will last 1260 literal days, NB: time, times and a half= 1260 days

What was prophet Daniel told concerning the duration of the abomination of desolation?

Daniel chapter 12

Part 3

7. But Daniel failed to understand this duration, and asked again

⁸ And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

Daniel asks again to get exact duration of the time of trouble given by the angel

8. The angel first gives prophet Daniel a more specific answer, specifying the starting and end point of the abomination of desolation

¹¹ from the time that the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be 1290 days.

The angel give specific details, giving the starting point and ending point of the abomination of desolation, and the exact number of days it shall take

9. Then angel gives answer to the question 'what shall be the end of these things?'

¹² Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the 1335 days.

The 1335th day marks the very last day when all things shall end. And the day Daniel and his people shall be resurrected. These are literal days.

10. Why should Daniel wait till 1335th day?

¹³ But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

He must wait till the last day for his resurrection

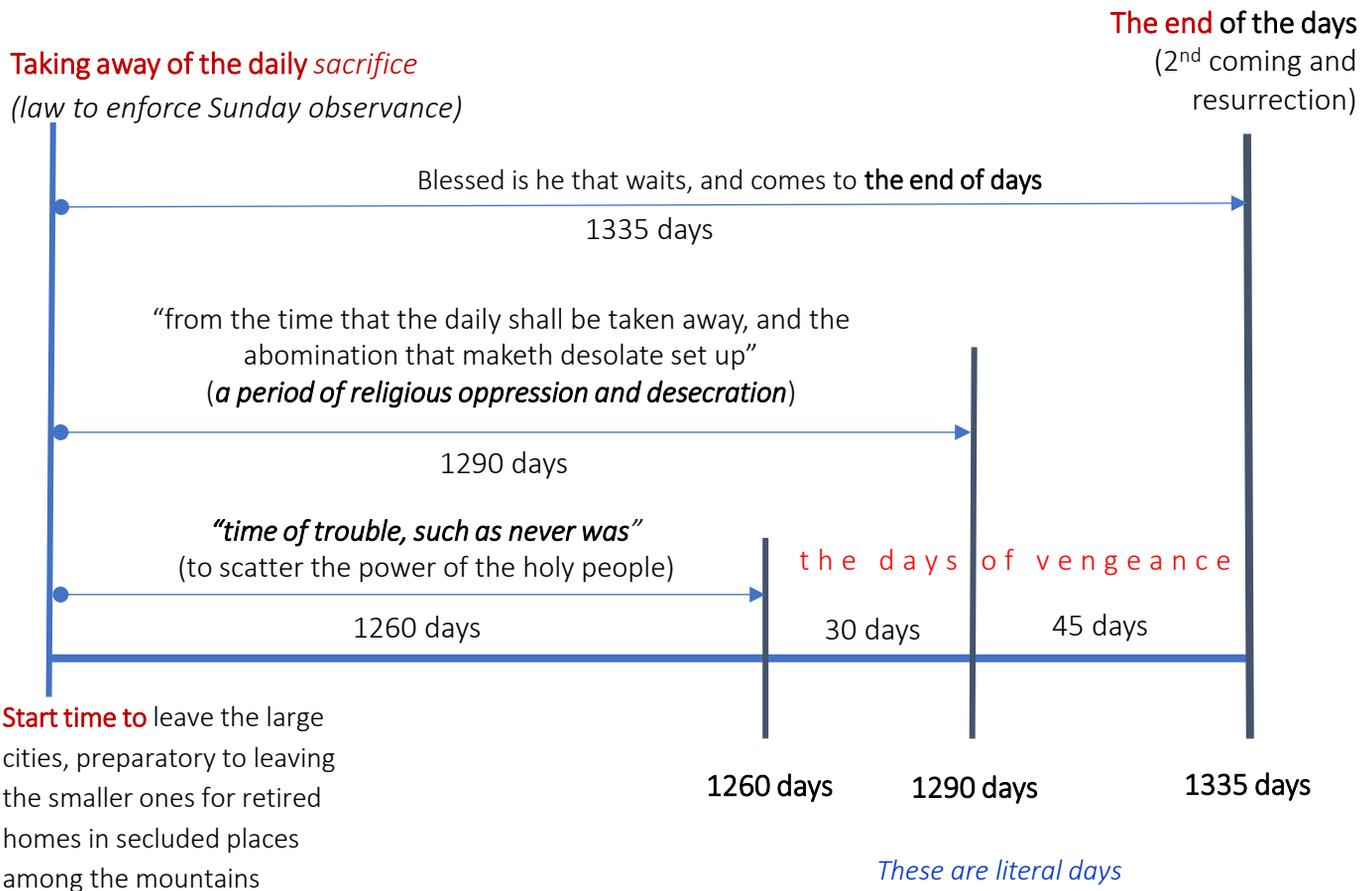
Conclusion

Daniel knew and understood he would live till death (rest). Then when the time of the end should come, he understood there would be an abomination of desolation that would be set up and would last 1260 days. Thereafter, God would avenge for his people for 30 days because of this abomination. It would then take 45 more days for complete desolation of the earth. At the 1335th day, all things would end. At this exact day, Jesus will come to resurrect Daniel and his people (and the living blessed be translated) to receive their lot (reward).

Due to misinterpretation, many people make claim that these are prophetic days, equating each day for a year. Would this be so, it would mean from the time Sunday law is set up to the end of the world would be 1,335 years. Yet the bible says this time will be very short and in fact will even be cut short.

What Jesus wanted the wise to understand about the duration of the abomination of desolation

While in the book of Matthew Jesus does not give the duration between daily being taken away and the setting up of abomination of desolation, to the end of days, He refers those who have prophecy understanding to read what the angel revealed to prophet Daniel. The timelines are revealed.



Will this time be cut short?

²² And except **those days should be shortened**, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake **those days shall be shortened**.

NB: Since these days shall be shortened, it will be impossible for the saints to know the definite time “day and the hour” of the Lord Jesus second coming. Thus, we must watch and pray and wait.

Whoso readeth, let him understand

Combining Daniel 12 and Matthew 24 for a full understanding

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; **and then shall the end come.** **And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.** ¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

²¹ **For then** shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **12** ¹ **And at that time** shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ⁶ How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? ⁷ it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. ⁸ And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? ¹¹ from the time that the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be 1290 days. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

¹² **Blessed is he** that waiteth, and cometh to the 1335 days. ³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ¹³ **But go thou thy way till the end be:** for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot **at the end of the days.**

So why did Jesus refer those who read MATTHEW to the Book of DANIEL?

The instructions are simple;

“whoso readeth, let him understand”

and **“the wise shall understand”**

(Matthew 24:15, Daniel 12:10)

Jesus wanted the wise who read Matthew to UNDERSTAND the timeline of the abomination of desolation, details of which He did not give directly in Matthew but had revealed to His angel to explain to Daniel the prophet. These instructions were for His saints who would live during the terrible times of the closing scenes of this earth's history. That foretold time is now at hand.

In the words of Jesus;

“Behold, I have told you before”

(Matthew 24:25)

Abomination of desolation at the destruction of Jerusalem city

Type

The whole of the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew is a prophecy concerning the events to precede the coming of the Son of man, and the destruction of Jerusalem is used to typify the last great destruction of the world by fire. "This gospel of the kingdom," He said, "shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come. Ms 77, 1899.

Christ presented before them an outline of prominent events before the close of time. The prophecy which He uttered was twofold in its meaning; while foreshadowing the destruction of Jerusalem, it prefigured also the terrors of the last great day. GC 25.3. The disciples heard Christ's words; but they did not fully understand them; They did not know why He connected the perils at the overthrow of Jerusalem with the perils attending His second advent. But their meaning was to be unfolded as His people should need the instruction therein given. The Holy Spirit must guide them into all truth, bringing to their remembrance all things that Christ had said to them. But those who live in this age may understand the general warning, and should appropriate it, applying it to the period where it belongs. ST February 20, 1901, par. 14

Jesus declared to the listening disciples the judgments that were to fall upon apostate Israel, and especially the retributive vengeance that would come upon them for their rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah. Unmistakable signs would precede the awful climax. The dreaded hour would come suddenly and swiftly. And the Saviour warned His followers: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." Matthew 24:15, 16; Luke 21:20, 21. When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself, the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down into his house, even to save his most valued treasures. Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction. GC 25.4.

This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. The Christians obeyed, and not one of them perished in the destruction of the city. ST February 20, 1901, par. 11. All the predictions given by Christ concerning the destruction of Jerusalem were fulfilled to the letter. The Jews experienced the truth of his words of warning, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." [Matthew 7:2.] GC88 30.1. Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given his disciples warning, and all who believed his words watched for the promised sign. "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies," said Jesus, "then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Abomination of desolation at the destruction of **the world**

Antitype

The last sign to leave the cities

The Saviour's prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city, we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God's mercy and trampled upon His law.⁷¹[The Great Controversy, 36](#). The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains. [Matthew 24:15, 16](#). Mar 180.1. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation [the United States] in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.⁵³[Testimonies for the Church 5:464, 465](#). Mar 180.2. Prior to the last closing conflict, many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth.³³[Manuscript 6, 1889](#).

As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for "the munitions of rocks." Isaiah 33:16. But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days, bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons.

Our only hope will be to hold firm the promises of our Saviour

No human ear is open to hear their moans; no human hand is ready to lend them help. Will the Lord forget His people in this trying hour? Did He forget faithful Noah when judgments were visited upon the antediluvian world? Did He forget Lot when the fire came down from heaven to consume the cities of the plain? Did He forget Joseph surrounded by idolaters in Egypt? Did He forget Elijah when the oath of Jezebel threatened him with the fate of the prophets of Baal? Did He forget Jeremiah in the dark and dismal pit of his prison house? Did He forget the three worthies in the fiery furnace? or Daniel in the den of lions? "Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands." Isaiah 49:14-16. The Lord of hosts has said: "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye." Zechariah 2:8.

A dire warning to leave the cities that has been ignored for over 100 years

Ellen G. White wrote about people leaving the cities in **1890, 1893, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908**. She encouraged church members to move from cities to rural areas for health, spiritual, and safety reasons.

In 1890: “Before the destruction of Sodom, God sent a message to Lot, ‘Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.’ The same voice of warning was heard by the disciples of Christ before the destruction of Jerusalem: ‘When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains.’ Luke 21:20, 21. They must not tarry to secure anything from their possessions, but must make the most of the opportunity to escape” {PP 166.3}. And so it will be in the last days. Again the voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity” {PP 166.4}.

In 1899: “As God’s commandment-keeping people, we must leave the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities, but not dwell in them” {14LtMs, Ms 85, 1899, par. 21}.

In 1900: “The angels of mercy hurried Lot and his wife and daughters by taking hold of their hands. Had Lot hastened as the Lord desired him to, his wife would not have become a pillar of salt. Lot had too much of a lingering spirit. Let us not be like him. The same voice that warned Lot to leave Sodom bids us, ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate, ... and touch not the unclean.’ Those who obey this warning will find a refuge.

In 1902: “Leave the cities, and like Enoch come from your retirement to warn the people of the cities” {17LtMs, Lt 182, 1902, par. 2}. “The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, ‘Shall not the cities be warned? Yes; not by God’s people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth’” {17LtMs, Lt 182, 1902, par. 15}.

In 1903: Ellen White clearly said in 1903 “the time has come” to leave the cities: “The time has come, when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities. The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it that may be cultivated. Some families who have been separated may be united in such places” {18LtMs, Ms 50, 1903, par. 13}. “My warning is: Keep out of the cities.”

“Out of the cities; out of the cities!” — ‘this is the message the Lord has been giving me.’

E.G.W

Part 2

In 1904: “Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies” {19LtMs, Lt 5, 1904, par. 3}.

In 1906: “‘Out of the cities; out of the cities!’ — this is the message the Lord has been giving me. The earthquakes will come; the floods will come; and we are not to establish ourselves in the wicked cities, where the enemy is served in every way, and where God is so often forgotten. The Lord desires that we shall have clear spiritual eyesight. We must be quick to discern the peril that would attend the establishment of institutions in these wicked cities. We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places” {RH July 5, 1906, par. 10}. “Out of the cities, is my message at this time” {21LtMs, Lt 158, 1906, par. 1}. “Be assured that the call is for our people to locate miles away from the large cities” {21LtMs, Lt 158, 1906, par. 2}. “The Lord calls for His people to locate away from the cities; for in such an hour as ye think not, fire and brimstone will be rained from heaven upon these cities. Proportionate to their sins will be their visitation” {21LtMs, Lt 158, 1906, par. 3}.

In 1907: “The instruction is still being given, Move out of the cities. Establish your sanitariums, your schools, and offices away from the centers of population” {22LtMs, Lt 26, 1907, par. 2}. “Our cities are increasing in wickedness, and it is becoming more and more evident that those who remain in them unnecessarily do so at the peril of their souls’ salvation” {22LtMs, Ms 115, 1907, par. 6}.

In 1908: “Who will be warned? We say again, Out of the cities. Do not consider it a great deprivation, that you must go into the hills and mountains, but seek for that retirement where you can be alone with God, to learn His will and way” {23LtMs, Ms 85, 1908, par. 16}.

Since the instruction of God was “*Out of the cities, is my message at this time*” in the year 1906, what about today, 119 years later?? Leaving the cities is now critically urgent, and too late for that matter.

How many today take heed of these warnings?

It will be **too late** at Sunday Law to leave the cities

It will be too late to seek country living at Sunday law.

O that this writer could command language of sufficient force to make the impression upon the minds of fellow Seventh-day Adventists that it will be too late at Sunday Law for them to leave the cities! I long to impress upon my fellow Seventh-day Adventists the urgent need to leave the cities *before* a national Sunday Law is enacted. Those who own city property and wish to avoid the mark of the beast must sell it *now* and purchase land in the countryside. Once the decree goes forth, "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark" (Revelation 13:17), city property will be worthless unless it has already been exchanged for rural land. Under a Sunday Law, Adventists will be unable to sell their city properties and buy rural ones. Their hearts will remain in the cities, tied to their abandoned possessions, as the scripture warns, "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). The thought of leaving their property behind will severely test their faith. Fleeing without selling risks a fate like Lot's wife, whose backward glance turned her into a pillar of salt—their faith could be similarly destroyed.

"But ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities that those who wish to leave them will not be able. We must be preparing for these issues. This is the light that is given me" {GCB April 6, 1903, page 88.1; RH April 14, 1903, par. 33}.

As "not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem" in A.D. 70 because they "watched for the promised sign" {GC 30.2}, so not one true Seventh-day Adventist Christian who watched for the 1888 sign will be living in the cities by Sunday Law. Surely it is "at the peril of their souls' salvation" {22LtMs, Ms 115, 1907, par. 6} that the professed Adventists remain in the cities until Sunday Law. **NB: there was a 1st push to enforce Sunday law in USA in 1888.**

Multitudes of professed Adventists still living in cities by Sunday Law shall condemn themselves and will fret themselves under the condemnation that they did not get out of the cities when they had the chance. They will flee in fear and not having real faith in the country living truth. But a flight of fear and not of faith is sin, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). With such a sin-motivated flight out of the cities, coupled with the demands of their city-raised children or their own artificial city lifestyle needs, they will find it practically impossible to suddenly adapt to country living life and they will quickly turn back to the life of ease in the city and receive the mark of the beast in order to survive.

Professed Adventists living in cities by Sunday Law, who as a result receive the mark of the beast, will prove to have been apostates! "They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them" {GC 608.2}.

Conclusion

To withstand the crisis of a national Sunday Law, we must cultivate Christ-like character *now*. Rural living offers the most conducive environment for this spiritual development. Character building is tenfold harder in cities. Waiting until Sunday Law to leave the cities will be too late for this essential preparation..

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